



Międzynarodowe Stowarzyszenie
im. Janusza Korczaka

Janusz Korczak
International Society



January 07

To all the members of the Korczak Associations,

It is my great privilege and honor to have been elected the president of the International Korczak Association. There are presently 24 countries that are members of the Association. However, the number of branches numbers about 40, because there are countries with more than one active association, such as Japan that has two, and Russia that has four.

I would like to share my thoughts for the coming year's activities with you, so that we can work together. The task I face is not a simple one. The Association's present situation, one in which the Articles of Association have not been examined since they were first written in Communist Poland in 1978, and have not been adapted to the new state of affairs in Poland and in Europe in general, requires proper treatment.

The International Association was founded in 1978 by 7 countries. At that time the meaning of membership in the Association and the conditions for becoming a member were not defined. The common goals of all the associations, except for commemoration, were not defined and coordinated.

Following an analysis of the Association's situation, I have come up with several topics that I would like to deal with during the coming year:

1. Updating of the Association's Articles of Association for authorization by the General Assembly
2. Reorganization of the Association's institutions and officers
3. Preparation of the elections for all the Association's institutions
4. Formulation of ways of working together with the UNESCO Janusz Korczak Chair in Special Pedagogy, which is located in Warsaw.
5. Selection of a common subject to work on in all the associations, in addition to the topics that each association works on in its country.
6. Organization of meetings with government authorities in Poland and Israel in order to achieve two aims:
 - a) Classification of the International Association's position in the Foreign Ministries
 - b) Finding sources for fundraising for the shared activities
7. Beginning the process of turning the orphanage into a center for meetings between different groups of young people and teachers in the spirit of Korczak's legacy, as an initial step towards setting up a Korczak House in the orphanage, for education for humanism, tolerance, pluralism and mutual respect.
8. To turn the summer camps that presently take place in Zielona Gora in western Poland into a common project of the International Association, for youth encounters.

It is clear that I will not be able to achieve any of the goals I have set myself, without your ideological assistance, support, advice, criticism and help with implementation.

I will take my first trip to Warsaw in my new position at the end of January. During this trip I intend to construct the foundation for the Association, to meet with the outgoing President of the Association, Prof. J. Kuberski, the last Acting Secretary, M. Wojcik, with T. Skodinevska, the treasurer, with Prof. Pronczek and Dr. B. Smolinska – Theiss a pilot from the Janusz Korczak Chair in Special Pedagogy, as well as with people from the Polish foreign Ministry and Ministry of Education, the mayor of Warsaw and the Israeli Ambassador to Poland.

Sincerely,

Batia Gilad

Enc.: Prof. J. Kuberski's farewell letter on concluding his position (Polish & English)

Drodzy Przyjaciele,

Podczas ostatniego posiedzenia Międzynarodowego Stowarzyszenia im. Janusza Korczaka złożyłem rezygnację z funkcji Przewodniczącego naszego Stowarzyszenia. Pełniłem tę zaszczytną funkcję 28 lat, pora więc przejść „na emeryturę”. Dziękuję wszystkim za lata serdecznej współpracy. Dzięki nam Korczak istnieje i cieszy się należnym uznaniem wśród szerokiego kręgu różnych społeczeństw. Wyświadczone przez MSK zaowocowały różnorodnymi działaniami w wielu krajach, skupionymi wokół postaci tego Wielkiego Twórcy – uczonego, pedagoga, lekarza i pisarza – w służbie dzieci i młodzieży, nowoczesnej pedagogiki, wychowania.

Zgromadzenie nasze wybrało na stanowisko Przewodniczącej BATI Gilad.

To najlepszy z możliwych dzieł wyborów. Nowa Przewodnicząca, pełna osobistego uroku, znajca życie i dzieło Korczaka, wprowadzi Stowarzyszenie w nowy etap, ku nowym osiągnięciom i wyzwaniom, czego Jej życzę serdecznie. Deklaruję jednocześnie, że w miarę moich sił i wiedzy służę zawsze pomocą.

Jeszcze raz najserdeczniej dziękuję za wspólną pracę, życzę BATI sukcesów w wielkim dziele, jakim jest nasza służba i pomnażanie idei Korczaka wśród ludzi całego świata.

Pozostaję z najlepszymi wyrazami szacunku i podziękowaniami, i życzeniami sukcesów,

Jerzy Kuberski

Warszawa, 26 listopada 2006



Dear friends,

At the last meeting of the Executive Council's International Meeting of the Janusz Korczak Association, I forwarded my resignation as the president of our Association. I fulfilled this distinguished position for twenty eight years, and feel that the time has come to relinquish office. I thank you for the heartfelt years of cooperation. It is thanks to us that there is an awareness of Korczak is in so many circles. The efforts of the IKA members brought about extensive activities connected to the personality and of this man – researcher, pedagogue, physician, and author. These activities in different countries are connected to the modern educational pedagogy in favor of children and youth.

Our association has elected Ms. Batia Gilad as its president. This is the best possible nomination. A new leader, delightful, who is totally familiar with the life and legacy of Korczak, who will lead the association to a new stage – new accomplishments and new goals. I wish this upon her with all my heart.

I hereby proclaim to afford all possible assistance, and to impart of my knowledge and experience to the ongoing activities of the association to the best of my capacity.

Once again I wish to express my gratitude for the collaboration and wish Batia success in the immense tasks that she faces. The task of spreading Korczak's ideas amongst mankind throughout the world .

Yours sincerely, thanks and all the very best,

Xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

26/11/2006